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TO PETER RODMAN FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

UNCLAS WH40452

MILITARY SPYING (TOPS N72)

BY MIKE SHANAHAN

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A NAVY ADMIRAL ACCUSED BY A YOUNG SUBORDINATE OF FOSTERING MILITARY SPYING INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE SAID TODAY THE ALLEGATIONS REPRESENTED "THE GROSSEST AND MOST IRRESPONSIBLE DISTORTION OF FACT."  
ADM. ROBERT D. WELANDER TESTIFIED THAT HIS ATTEMPTS TO CLOSE OFF LEAKS OF HIGHLY-CLASSIFIED MATERIAL TO THE PRESS IN 1971 WERE SOMEHOW TWISTED INTO ACCUSATIONS THAT HE SPIED FOR THE MILITARY JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF.

NO LESS A WHITE HOUSE FIGURE THAN JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN, FORMERLY PRESIDENT NIXON'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS ADVISER, BELIEVED HE WAS GUILTY OF "POLITICAL SPYING," THE ADMIRAL TESTIFIED IN A CLOSED DOOR SESSION OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE.

IN PREPARED TESTIMONY MADE PUBLIC BY THE COMMITTEE, WELANDER SAID EHRLICHMAN WOUND UP AN INVESTIGATION BY THE WHITE HOUSE PLUMBERS UNIT BY CALLING THE ADMIRAL TO HIS WHITE HOUSE OFFICE AND PRESENTING HIM WITH "A PREPARED STATEMENT ON WHITE HOUSE STATIONERY FOR MY SIGNATURE."

"THIS STATEMENT WOULD HAVE HAD ME ADMIT TO THE WILDEST POSSIBLE TOTALLY FALSE CHARGES OF 'POLITICAL SPYING,'" HE SAID.

WHEN HE REFUSED TO SIGN THE STATEMENT, WELANDER SAID, EHRLICHMAN INTERROGATED HIM AT LENGTH ABOUT THE ALLEGATIONS OF YEOMAN CHARLES E. RADFORD. THE YEOMAN HAS TESTIFIED WELANDER PRAISED HIM FOR HIS WORK IN SECRETLY COLLECTING FILES FROM HENRY A. KISSINGER.

WELANDER INDICATED HE DECLINED TO ANSWER SOME QUESTIONS BECAUSE OF THE HIGH SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THE ANSWERS.

"EHRLICHMAN'S QUESTIONS WERE ALL EITHER DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTED TO STATEMENTS MADE BY YEOMAN RADFORD OR BASED ON KNOWLEDGE THAT ONLY HE COULD HAVE HAD OF CERTAIN ASPECTS OF MY DUTIES," WELANDER SAID.

THOSE ALLEGATIONS, WELANDER SAID, "HAD APPARENTLY SERVED TO SHIFT THE FOCUS OF THE INVESTIGATION AWAY FROM THE ORIGINAL

\*\*\*\*\*WHSR COMMENT\*\*\*\*\*

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MATTER OF THE (COLUMNIST JACK) ANDERSON LEAKS AND ON TO MY OWN DUTIES. IT HAD AND RETAINS THE APPEARANCE OF A VERY CLEVER RETRIBUTION AGAINST THE ONE WHO HAD INITIATED THE INVESTIGATION (OF THE LEAKS.)"

RADFORD, 30, A 10-YEAR VETERAN WITH DUTY IN VARIOUS SENSITIVE JOBS, HAS TESTIFIED WELANDER AND HIS PREDECESSOR, REAR ADM. REMBRANDT C. ROBINSON, CAREFULLY ENCOURAGED THE YEOMAN TO PROCURE ANYTHING OF INTEREST TO THE NATION'S TOP MILITARY LEADERS.

MOORER AND WELANDER INSIST THERE WAS NO NEED FOR MILITARY SPYING BECAUSE OF THE FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN MOORER AND KISSINGER, NIXON'S FORMER CHIEF NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER AND NOW THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

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